

# Record

JOURNAL OF THE MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST CONVENTION

## Missionary parents fund scholarships

By Tony Martin  
Associate Editor

Southern Baptist missionaries have a unique set of needs while serving both on the field and while at home. Fortunately, organizations such as the Mississippi Missionary Parents Fellowship (MMPF) are there to help.

The MMPF had its twice-yearly meeting at Camp Garaywa on April 26. A highlight of the meeting was the beginning of a scholarship made available to MKs — Missionary Kids — so they can attend Mississippi Baptists' three colleges.

According to MMPF President Rebecca Williams of Madison, MMPF was started in 1995 and has grown over the years. "God has blessed our efforts," Williams said. "We saw the needs of our children who were serving as missionaries, and several parents got together to ask, 'What can we do to help them?'"

From those initial conversations, MMPF has grown to serve the needs of missionaries all across the world through the medium of their parents.

In one specific case, the Macedonian Call Foundation sprang from MMPF. Macedonian Call is best known for providing vehicles for missionaries on statewide assignment in Mississippi. While Macedonian Call has become a self-sustaining organization, "they are still closely related to the work of MMPF," Williams said.

"We looked around and thought about our grandchildren," she continued, "and wondered if there were any colleges doing anything specifically for them. We learned that some were providing scholarships while others weren't really doing anything."

The group decided to explore the possibility of setting up a scholarship account through the Mississippi Baptist



**SCHOLARSHIP CONTRIBUTION** — Members of the Mississippi Baptist Missionary Parents Fellowship present a donation to Jane Earnest (right), associate director of the Mississippi Baptist Foundation, for deposit in the Foundation account that when fully funded will provide scholarships for the children of missionaries to attend Mississippi's three Baptist-affiliated institutions of higher learning. On hand for the presentation were (from left) Leon Mathis of Starkville; Rebecca Williams of Madison; Cathy Burns, liaison to the Mississippi Woman's Missionary Union on behalf of the fellowship and in whose name the donation was made; Earnest; and Jennings Orr of Jackson. (BR photo by William H. Perkins Jr.)

Foundation. Jane Earnest, the Foundation's associate director, was instrumental in providing guidance.

The MMPF formed a committee to pursue the scholarship idea, consisting of Williams; Jennings Orr of Jackson; Leon Mathis of Starkville; and Patty Dent of Clinton. They resolved work toward a \$25,000 corpus goal for the Foundation account before awarding scholarships from the account.

"During our last three meetings, we 'passed the hat,'" said Williams, "and came up with our first money. We decided to

give this money in honor of Kathy Burns." Burns, a consultant in the Mississippi Woman's Missionary Union (WMU), has served as the WMU liaison to MMPF and has provided logistical support.

According to Williams, MMPF has 80-100 active members. For more information on the work of the MMPF, contact Burns at P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. Telephone; (601) 292-3319 or toll-free outside Jackson (800) 748-1651, ext. 319. E-mail: kburns@mbcb.org.

The MMPF is supported in part by gifts to the Mississippi Cooperative Program.

## Exec. Comm. approves Hinds BSU director

By William H. Perkins Jr.  
Editor

The Executive Committee of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board (MBCB), in a May 16 called meeting at the Baptist Building in Jackson, approved the hiring of a new Baptist Student Union (BSU) director for Hinds Community College in Raymond and welcomed two new members to the full board.

Gary Davison, who holds a master of divinity degree from New Orleans Seminary with a specialization in collegiate ministries, will begin his new duties at Hinds Community College on June 1. He also holds a bachelor of science in business administration degree from Northwestern

State University in Natchitoches, La., where he was a member of Phi Beta Kappa and graduated cum laude.

Davison, who is married, served as a campus minister intern at the University of West Georgia in Carrollton, Ga., from 2000-02. He was also an International Service Corps missionary to Brazil, under the auspices of the International Mission Board of the Southern Baptist Convention, from 1996-98.

Davison has held a number of secular jobs in the fields of business management and education.

The Executive Committee also approved two new board members to fill unexpired terms:

- Mike Smith, pastor of Bluff Springs Church, Falkner, will serve as Benton-Tippah Association's representative, replacing Bobby Cossey Sr., who accepted the call to pastor

- Jonathan Haimes, pastor of Mount Olive Church, Baldwin, will serve as Old Hebron Church,

Newhebron, will serve as Covington-Jeff Davis Association's representative, replacing Stan Cheatham, who accepted the call to pastor Center Terrace Church, Canton.

The association also advised the committee that Haimes will be recommended for a full three-year term on the board when the unexpired term he is currently serving ends in 2004.

The MBCB Executive Committee is elected each fall from the membership of the full board, which is composed of representatives from each Mississippi Baptist association and at-large members. The committee manages the affairs of the board when the board is not in session, through regular and special called meetings.

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PUBLISHED SINCE 1877

MAY 22, 2003

VOL. 127

No. 16

### WHAT'S IN THE RECORD

Rice encourages grads

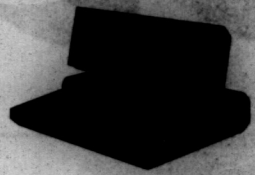
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Sunday School lessons



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**Postmaster: Send changes of address to The BAPTIST RECORD, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. Send news, communication, and address changes to The Editor, BAPTIST RECORD, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530 (601) 968-3800. Fax: (601) 292-3330. E-mail: baptistrecord@mbcb.org**

VOLUME 127 NUMBER 16  
(ISSN-0005-5778)

Published weekly except weeks of July 4 and Christmas by the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, 515 Mississippi Street, Jackson, MS 39201. Subscription \$9.35 per year payable in advance. Economy plans available for cooperating Mississippi churches. Periodicals postage paid at Jackson, MS. Member, Association of State Baptist Papers. Deadlines: News items — one calendar week prior to requested publication date. Advertising — two calendar weeks prior to requested publication date.

## Oh, how they try

This year's national award for Turning Tragedy into Political Hay will undoubtedly go to Mavra Stark of Morristown, N.J., president of the Morris County (N.J.) chapter of the National Organization of Women (NOW). She's the slam dunk winner for opining, only hours after Laci Peterson's decomposed body and unborn baby were found washed up on the banks of San Francisco Bay, that a charge of murdering the baby filed against Peterson's hapless husband Scott would not be appropriate.

According to Stark, Laci Peterson's "fetus" wasn't a person and therefore couldn't be murdered, although Laci Peterson had already named the baby Connor. Stark also fretted that a murder charge involving a fetus would only strengthen the pro-life position that unborn babies are indeed human. After all, the victim of a murder has to be a human or else there is no murder.

In modern America, that's the premise that separates homicide from a common medical procedure. If an unborn baby is not a human, it can't be murdered. It can be aborted in any number of horrible ways at any stage up to and including birth (partial-birth abortion, for example), but it's not murder because the baby is not a human.

Exactly what is growing toward full maturity in the womb of a woman at the time of an abortion is not easily explained away by the abortion-rights groups. They try, however. Oh, how they try.

"There's a difference between a fetus and a child. That's where the pro-choice and anti-choice communities diverge," said Laurie Lowenstein of Lincroft, N.J., executive director of New Jersey Right to Choose, in the Morristown (N.J.) Daily Record newspaper shortly after Stark made her remarks.

Like Stark, Lowenstein accused the pro-life movement of a dishonest attempt "to establish the fetus as a citizen... (and) then make abortion illegal. That's the long-

range plan," she said in the newspaper article.

New Jersey Assemblyman Michael Patrick Carroll of Morris Township said in the same article that Stark's comments actually betrayed one of the worst-kept secrets of the pro-abortion movement.

"You know how they say, 'The definition of a gaffe is speaking the truth' — well, Mavra inadvertently said what everyone in the pro-choice movement already believes — that it isn't a baby until it takes its first breath."

How convenient. A human is not a human until it first gasps for air in the delivery room. Surely no reasonable person doubts that a mother whale is pregnant with a baby whale throughout the gestation period, or that a mother cat is pregnant with kittens throughout the whole gestation period — but somehow, a human mother is not pregnant with a human throughout the whole gestation period.

The intellectual absurdity of that argument is breathtaking. If it is not a baby human that is growing inside the mother, then what is it that must be killed to prevent it from being born a human? A whale is a whale. A cat is a cat. A human is a human. The pro-abortion folks always have a difficult time trying to craft a common sense response to that fact.

What's equally outrageous is the idea that people like Stark, Lowenstein, and their ilk at NOW and the National Abortion Rights Action League are perfectly willing to allow a murder to go unpunished as long as they don't have to give an

"DEAR LORD, YOU'LL HAVE TO TAKE CARE OF MY DAD IN THE PERSIAN GULF OR SOMEWHERE — SINCE I CAN'T BE THERE TO DO IT MYSELF."



inch in their fight to keep abortion legal for any reason in any place at any time, up to and including birth.

That should come as no surprise. Any group that could endorse tearing a fully-formed baby limb by limb from its mother's womb — and then reassembling all the bloody pieces on a table to be sure the procedure was thorough — could not possibly feel for Connor Peterson.

That's how low we've sunk as human beings. As the old saying goes: If God doesn't bring His judgment on America, He's going to have to apologize to Sodom and Gomorrah.

We'd better prepare ourselves for the judgment, not the apology.

## GUEST OPINION:

*Let's give a little  
more to Lottie*

By Grady Crowell  
Associational Missions Director  
Clarke Association, Quitman

shared my heart with our Clarke Association moderator, several persons at our weekly Pastors Conference and our Missions Council members.

As a result of these talks they all approved that I may promote Give a Little More to Lottie Moon Sunday.

There were two verses, which came to my mind related to this matter. Matthew 26:39 tells of Jesus in Gethsemane: "And He went a little father."

The second verse is Mark 14:8, where Jesus said concerning the ointment the lady had poured on His head as an expression of her love and devotion to Him: "She hath done what she could."

I realize many persons reading these words may be members of Mississippi Baptist churches that have already met or exceeded the church goal this year for Lottie Moon. Since there is still a need, however, please prayerfully consider giving a little more.

I appeal to all readers that we all go a little farther for Jesus and do what we can for Him. As we pray for our missionaries who are serving and those who are called and willing to go — and as we give sacrificially to help them go — I feel our Lord will both bless and use us. Really!

I rejoice at the good news of how our Lord is working with and through IMB personnel, so

that 1,200 people a day are being baptized (related to the combined ministries of our Southern Baptist missionaries). To God be the glory!

In closing, I want to encourage all Southern Baptist churches to promote the Lottie Moon Offering for International Missions on Sunday, May 25. Then on May 26, may all church treasurers promptly send the gifts to: Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, ATTN: Lottie Moon Offering, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. Be sure to make the check payable to MBCB and mark it for Lottie Moon. This way the funds can then be sent by May 31 to IMB in Richmond, Va.

Oh, how blessed it would be if Jerry Rankin, our own Mississippi-raised missionary and missions leader, can say to those who are waiting: "All whom God has spiritually called to go, we can financially send you." Oh, may it be so!

It has been a delight to give to the Lottie Moon Offering. Yes, my wife and I will be giving "a little more" ourselves on that Sunday.

Know that what you give in God's will, He will use. Amen.



# Moore takes big step with simulcast event

HOUSTON, Texas (BP) — Beth Moore continues to break new ground. The best-selling LifeWay Christian Resources author had just finished teaching *Believing God* to more than 30,000 women through an online study offered through [lifeway.com](http://lifeway.com), a first for the Houston-based Bible study leader and teacher.

Then, on April 26, high school to senior adult women gathered to participate in Moore's first-ever simulcast event from Champion Forest Church in Houston. Moore led the women through of her *Beloved Disciple* Bible study, highlighting the *koinonia* — or intimate fellowship — that God desires to have with His people.

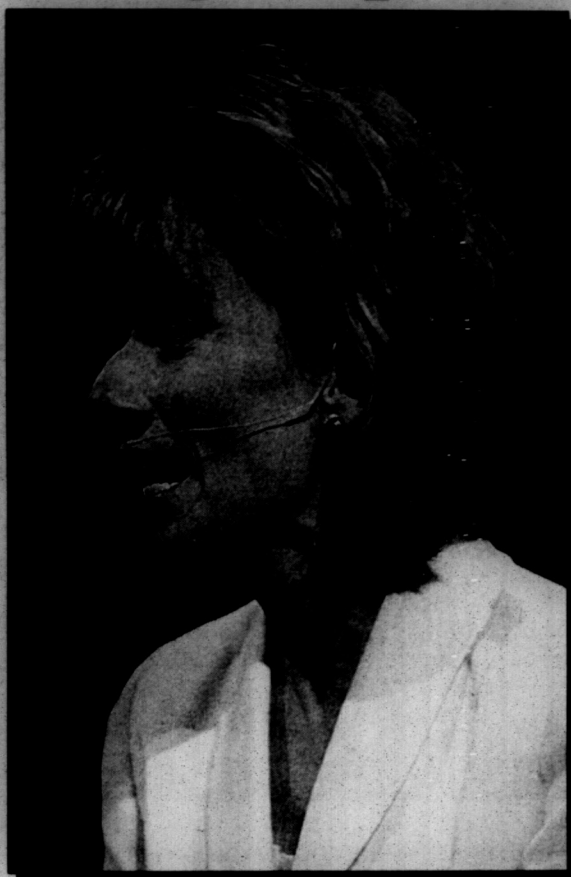
More than 13,000 women and 38 other churches from across the country participated. Champion Forest Church hosted 2,500 women for the four-hour program.

The event also marked the first time LifeWay has used simulcast technology.

When Moore took her place on the stage, she welcomed the women in the 38 satellite locations to her hometown of Houston. Speaking about the simulcast, she said, "I have absolutely no clue how this is happening. But, I know it is happening. Sounds sort of like the Holy Spirit of God, doesn't it?"

As she led the study, she encouraged the women to discard anything in their lives that could come between them and the Father. "God sets a passion in anything he consumes," she said. "He burns with a holy fire. Anything we give up to Him, He will consume."

Much planning was needed to host the event, and Champion Forest was the easy choice.



Moore

"We chose Champion Forest because they have just completed this marvelous new facility," said Gary Aylor, director of LifeWay's central operations area. "They not only have the equipment and technology to handle an event of this scope, but they have the staff with the skills to make this happen."

At the simulcast locations, the audiences watched the event from Houston on large screens.

"It may sound funny to someone who's never attended an event like this, but from what I have observed, people at the remote sites get completely involved in what's happening," said Greg Flessing, producer and director for the event.

"They sing, clap, laugh and pray just like the people at the live site. The satellites give such great relays that the people really see everything clearly."

When people attend big events at convention centers, arenas and stadiums, they are accustomed to watching the big screens to see what is happening on the stage, Flessing added.

"Sometimes it's easier to feel connected with the big screen when you can see the speaker close up than when he or she just looks like a tiny speck," he said. "The screen reduces the distance between the speaker and the participant."

"We're so glad to be a part of this first

Beth Moore simulcast event," said Brent Johnson, Champion Forest's minister of media. "It's all being done for the glory of God and we're humbled to be a part of it."

In developing the simulcast, LifeWay contacted some of the churches that recently participated in Bible studies based on

Moore's resources. Within just a few months, 38 churches signed up. While Champion Forest is a large church with the facilities to host a simulcast, the only technical requirement for a church to be a satellite location is a satellite receiver dish. To ensure a large enough crowd at each location, the host church was required to purchase a minimum of 1,000 tickets, and 200 for each satellite church.

Moore's Bible study workbooks have sold more than three million copies. She has written nine trade books, published by Broadman & Holman, the publishing arm of LifeWay Christian Resources of the Southern Baptist Convention.

## THE BAPTIST Record

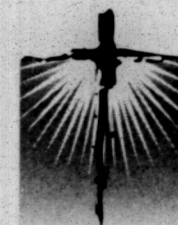
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PUBLISHED SINCE 1877

MAY 22, 2003

VOL. 127

No. 16



MISSISSIPPI  
BAPTISTS

## B&H releases books

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP) — Among the books being released in May by Broadman & Holman Publishers (B&H), the trade book division of LifeWay Christian Resources of the Southern Baptist Convention:

- *The Kingdom Focused Church* by Gene Mims, vice president of LifeWay's church resources division, helps church leaders develop a unique congregational mission not modeled on others' successes but on a biblical model of church.

- *Holy War for the Promised Land* by David Dolan, an American journalist who has lived in Israel since 1980, chronicles the escalating conflict in the Middle East. A Christian and former CBS News reporter, Dolan writes about anti-Israel sentiments, the collapse of the Oslo peace process and the new Palestinian uprising and a possible Israeli response to it.

- *The End of Personal Evangelism* by Will McRaney, assistant professor of evangelism at New Orleans Seminary, depicts personal evangelism as the foundation for church growth. If the Kingdom of God is to expand, McRaney writes in his book, Christians must learn to communicate their faith stories in ways that are engaging, personal and culturally relevant.

- *The Passion Drive* by James R. Haddix, dean of the chapel and associate professor of preaching at New Orleans Seminary, presents a philosophical and theological apologetic for biblical exposition as a pastor's primary approach to preaching ministry in the local church.

- *Aging Gracefully* by retired gerontologist David Petty equips readers with tools to make their senior years all that God intends.

- *Bible Prayer Collection* by Stephen Elkins is an illustrated collection of 30 biblical prayers for children.



TAKING A BREAK — Wanda Parker (right) event coordinator for Pilgrim Progress Missionary Baptist Church in North Little Rock, and fellow member Matty Cooksey (left) along with Vera Blevins, (center) of Cornerstone Bible Fellowship in Little Rock, share a break during a Beth Moore simulcast. (BP photo by Jim Veneman)

## Looking back

### 10 years ago

The Baylor University board of regents vote unanimously to open the George W. Truett Theological Seminary in 1994, pledging not to duplicate existing seminaries but to offer a distinctive approach to ministry preparation.

### 20 years ago

The "innerancy faction" of the Southern Baptist Convention is expected to conserve precious gains but launch no new strategies at the convention's annual meeting. "We really don't have much of an agenda for Pittsburgh — we expect it to be a relatively peaceful convention," said Paige Patterson, president of the Criswell Center for Biblical Studies in Dallas.

### 50 years ago

Southern Baptist Convention Cooperative Program receipts for the first four months of 1953 are at \$3.2 million, an increase of 12% over the same period in 1952 and a good sign for the future.



# National security adviser addresses grads

By Tony Martin  
Associate Editor

## Counseling offered at Conference

PHOENIX (BP) — The 2003 Southern Baptist Pastors' Conference, to be held in Phoenix immediately prior to the start of the Southern Baptist Convention annual meeting, will join with Focus on the Family and Hope for the Heart to offer free Christian counseling to Southern Baptist pastors, staff members, missionaries, and their families on June 15-16.

To ensure anonymity, the counseling will take place away from the Phoenix Civic Plaza. Confidential appointments can be made by calling Hope for the Heart at (800) 488-HOPE (4673) between 8:30 a.m.-10 p.m. CDT. Names are not required; registration numbers will be assigned. Appointments will be made in the order they are received.

The free counseling ministry adds to what was already a family oriented event. The theme of the Pastors' Conference will be Building Kingdom Families, and the first-ever Kingdom Family Rally will take place on the evening of June 16.

Identifying herself as a "Daughter of the South" and describing her abiding faith in God, Condoleezza Rice, Assistant to the President for National Security Affairs, received three standing ovations as she delivered the 28th commencement address for the Mississippi College (MC) School of Law on May 16 in the Sanctuary of First Church, Jackson.

Before a crowd of 2,600, including the approximately 110 degree candidates for the Doctor of Jurisprudence degree bestowed by Mississippi College (MC) School of Law, the Birmingham native wove warm personal stories into her 20-minute address.

Rice, who stated she was neither a lawyer or a Baptist, said, "I'm a strong believer in the transforming power of education and faith."

She cited the example of her grandfather, who used his sharecropper "cotton money" to enroll in Stillman College in Alabama.

When his money ran out, he asked a college official, "Where do these [other students] get their money?" He was told that they were given scholarships because they were studying to be Presbyterian ministers.

"That's just what I had in mind," Rice quoted her grandfather as saying, and both he and Rice's father became college-educated Presbyterian ministers.

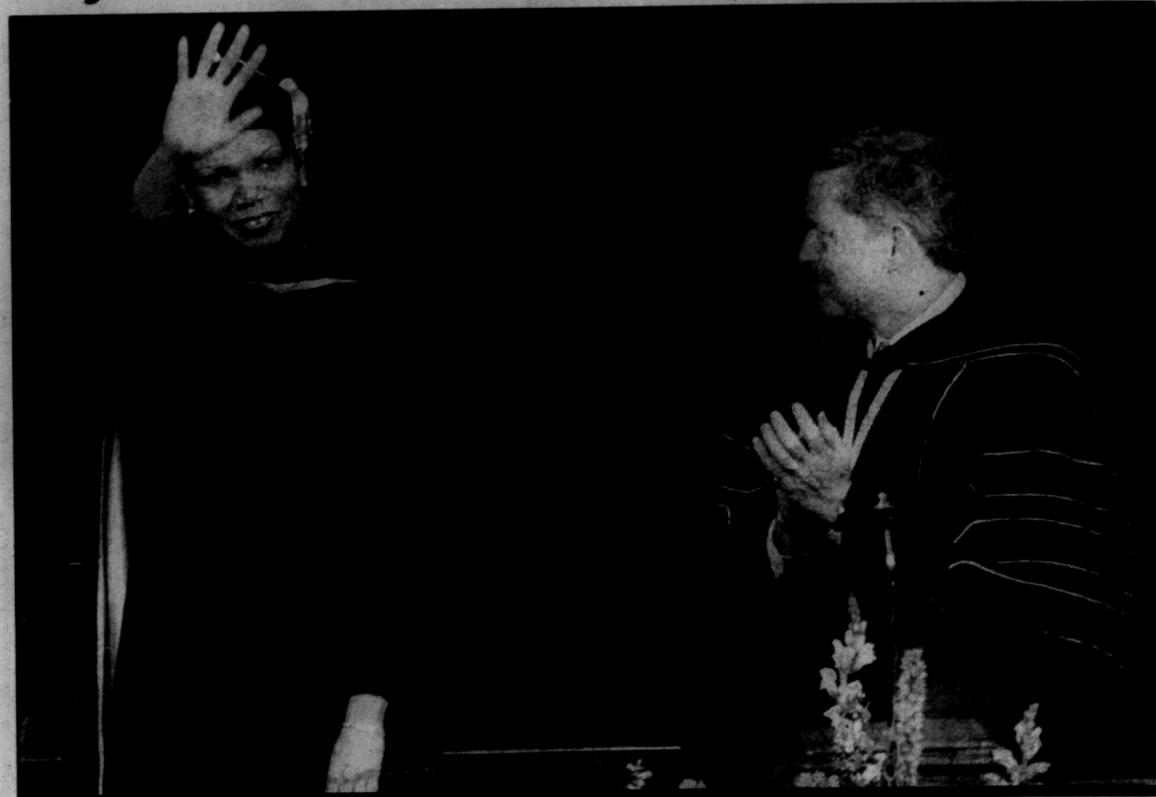
Rice touched on a variety of topics during her address, including the war in Iraq, Mississippi's civil rights struggle, and even playing the piano in a Baptist church in California.

Regarding her church experience, Rice recalled she was approached by a man in a grocery store one Sunday morning in Palo Alto, Calif., where she was serving as provost of Stanford University.

She said she was asked by the man if she played the piano. When she responded that she did, the man questioning her invited her to play the piano for the Baptist church he attended.

Later, Rice admitted, "I wasn't Baptist, and I played Brahms instead of Gospel. I didn't know what to do."

She questioned her mother, and her mother advised, "Hon, just play everything



WARM WELCOME — Condoleezza Rice (left), national security adviser to U.S. President George W. Bush, reacts to a standing ovation from the 2,600 people gathered May 16 in the Sanctuary of First Church, Jackson, for Mississippi College (MC) School of Law commencement ceremonies. Rice, a former provost at Stanford University in Palo Alto, Calif., delivered the commencement address and received an honorary MC degree from Lee Royce (right), MC president. (Photo used by permission; courtesy of Greg Jensen/The Clarion-Ledger)

in the key of 'C' and they'll find their way back to you."

Rice pointed out that in the human relationship with God that people can find our way back to Him if they have strayed, by going back to the basics like starting with the key of "C" on the piano.

Speaking at length about America's civil rights struggle, Rice said while growing up in Birmingham, she had been close friends with one of the four black girls killed in the Sixteenth Street Church bombing in 1963.

Mentioning both slain Mississippi civil rights leader Medger Evers and the Freedom Riders who traveled the state to promote civil rights, Rice invoked Mississippi's place in civil rights history and likened those days to a "second birth" for the United States.

She asked graduates to serve their

communities. "I urge you to give some of your time to a world that has given you so much."

Rice also mentioned that America is actively working to rebuild Iraq in the aftermath of Operation Iraqi Freedom, as well as helping draft a new constitution for Afghanistan. "Our own history shows that democracy takes time," she said.

"When freedom is sought by brave people seeking to be free from tyranny, we must be by their side," she stated.

Anita German of Tuscaloosa, Ala., Rice's second cousin and an MC law graduate, was instrumental in securing Rice's participation.

Mississippi College is affiliated with the Mississippi Baptist Convention and is supported by gifts to the Mississippi Cooperative Program.

## Death sentence announced in missionary slayings

JIBLA, Yemen (BP) — The Southern Baptist hospital man accused of killing three workers after entering the hospital in Yemen under false pretenses has been sentenced to death, his lawyer told the Associated Press.

Abed Abdul Razak Kamel, age 30, was sentenced May 10 for the Dec. 30 shooting deaths of hospital administrator William Koehn of Kansas, surgeon Martha Myers of Alabama, and medical supplies manager Kathleen Gariety of Wisconsin.

A fourth Southern Baptist worker, pharmacist Don Caswell of Texas, was wounded. The attacks took place at the Baptist Hospital in Jibla, Yemen.

The verdict was given in Jibla, the AP reported. Kamel will appeal, with his

lawyer describing the verdict as violating Islamic law.

Yemeni officials believe that Kamel has ties to Al Qaeda, the AP reported. In April Kamel told the court he killed the three workers because he believed they were trying to sterilize Muslim women and convert Muslims to belief in Christianity.

An spokesman for the Southern Baptist International Mission Board, which employed the three workers, later told Baptist Press that sterilization procedures would

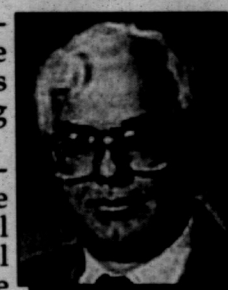
have been done solely with permission of both spouses.

Kamel also said he and a friend had agreed that he would "target Christians." The friend, Ali al-Jarallah, is charged with killing a Yemeni policeman days before the three Baptist workers were murdered.

The attacks on the Baptist workers in Yemen were followed a few weeks later by an airport bombing in the Philippines that killed IMB worker Bill Hyde and wounded several members of another IMB family.



SITE OF TRAGEDY — The Jibla Baptist Hospital, situated in the mountains of southwest Yemen, was the site where a lone gunman killed three Southern Baptist



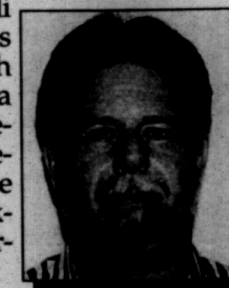
Koehn



Myers



Gariety



Caswell



# Studies: teen sex falling, religion important

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP) — Two recent studies have bolstered conservatives' claims about abstinence and teenage substance abuse.

A study published in the latest edition of the journal, *Adolescent & Family Health*, found that 67% of the drop in the single teen pregnancy rate from 1991-95 was due to abstinence, not birth control. This counters a study released by the Alan Guttmacher Institute in 1999 saying that contraception was the major factor in the drop.

Meanwhile, another study has shown the positive impact religion can have on a teen's life. According to the study — published in the March issue of the journal, *Psychology of Addictive Behaviors* — teens who consider religion important in their lives are half as likely as other teens to drink heavily or smoke marijuana and cigarettes.

Three researchers at Yeshiva University in New York conducted the substance abuse study. "These buffering effects could be occurring because religiosity may influence a person's attitudes and values, providing meaning and purpose in life," researcher Thomas Ashby Wills said in a statement. "It could also help persons to view problems in a different way."

"Besides offering coping techniques, being involved with a religion can also create more healthy social networks than adolescents would have if they got involved with drugs to find social outlets."

The pregnancy study looked at various data, including the drop in the teen birth rate from 1991-95 (the latest data available) and the increase in abstinent teens during that time. "Teens" were defined as girls ages 15-19.

The study utilized data from the National Vital Statistics Records, National Survey of Family Growth, and the Alan Guttmacher Institute. The number of pregnancies per 1,000 teen girls decreased from 115.8 in 1991 to 101.1 in 1995, according to the study. At the same time, the number of unmarried teen girls who were abstinent — defined as never having had sex or not having had sex in the past year — increased from 53% to 56%, the study said.

The study was conducted by New Jersey physician Joanna Mohn, University of North Carolina-Greensboro professor Lynne Tingle, and Colorado physician Reginald Finger. "These findings support the significance of the growing movement of teens choosing to abstain from sex," they wrote. "... [T]his study demonstrates the important role of increased sexual abstinence in reducing the single teen and overall teen pregnancy rates," they said.

The study of religion's effects on teens followed 1,182 teens in New York City from seventh to 10th grade, utilizing surveys each school year.

The importance of religion was determined by asking the teens to rate various statements from "not at all important" to "very important": "To believe in God"; "To be able to rely on religious teachings when you have a problem"; "To be able to turn to prayer when you're facing a personal problem"; and "To rely on your religious beliefs as a guide for day-to-day living."

The research found that teens who consider religion an important part of their lives were half as likely to be involved in "heavy drinking, cigarette smoking, and marijuana use."

There was little difference in overall alcohol use, the study pointed out.

Southern Baptists have long promoted their own abstinence program entitled True Love Waits, which urges young people to pledge to remain sexually pure until marriage.

## Chinese are focus of prayer day

RICHMOND, Va. (BP) — On June 8, Southern Baptists will take on the enormous task: praying and fasting for the more than one billion Chinese who have yet to hear of the love and saving power of Jesus Christ. "Praying for so many people may seem daunting, but the power of united prayer is immeasurable," said Randy Sprinkle, director of the International Mission Board's prayer strategy office.

Scattered throughout the world, from China, to Malaysia, to Mexico, and even Paris, the Chinese represent distinct ethnic and cultural backgrounds. Fifty-five million Chinese live outside China in countries across the globe.

In China, a passion for God's kingdom is burning in the hearts of Chinese Christians. With the world's fastest Christian growth, China is seeing a dynamic working of the Holy Spirit and is home to many of the world's church-planting movements.

The largest people group in the world, the Han, reside in China and number 1.16 billion. The Han make up 20% of the world's population, yet less than five percent are Christians.

With a request only God can answer, prayers for the Chinese will be going up in mass on June 8, the Day of Prayer and Fasting for World Evangelization. For more information on the Day of Prayer and Fasting, visit <http://www.imb.org/ime/day-ofprayer/default.htm>.

### WATCH YOUR LANGUAGE

In November, 2002, the City Council of Chicago raised their maximum fine for cursing or swearing in public. It will now cost you \$300 if you are found guilty of foul mouth outbursts in public.

According to the news report, this past year over 3,000 tickets were given to Chicago residents for swearing. That may not sound like a big deal, but if that many are fined this year, and if they get the maximum fine, my calculations show that it would amount to right at a million dollars!

That's a lot of money for the city, coming from the pockets of those who want to exercise their bad-mouthed and socially offensive behavior in public.

Having never lived in Chicago, I'm not sure how they go about enforcing this law, passing out tickets, determining what you have to say or how many times you have to say it, or what the inflection has to be in your voice that brings on the \$300 maximum fine. I also wonder how in the world they give out these tickets and collect the fines without the ACLU standing around waving the banner of "Freedom of Speech," clearing the way for people to talk just about any way they want to, even if it is filthy, trashy, and hurtful.

I cannot believe and am confident that I will live and die without ever becoming adjusted to the things one hears on the public airwaves,



## Directions

Jim Futral, executive director-treasurer  
Mississippi Baptist Convention Board

whether radio, television, or in the print media. Words for which I would have received a spanking as a youngster growing up are now considered the norm in our culture. Words for which I would have gotten expelled from school for saying are now passed along regularly in comedy series and in dramatic moments on TV. You just hear them everywhere — at school, at work, at home, at play, even at church!

A man called me recently who was upset about something going on in his church. He just wanted to talk, or maybe a better word would be to vent. Although I did not know him, he began to unload his feelings into my ear over the telephone. In the course of eight or ten sentences, he used three different profanities.

While he wanted to talk about a different issue, I stopped him, and as politely as I could, I said, "Could I ask you a question?" He said, "Absolutely, what do you want to know?" I asked him, "Did your mama teach you to talk like that?" There was silence on the other end of the phone as

the man had to remember what he had said in order to compose his response.

I hear people say, "That's just the way the world is," or "Everybody is doing it." That may be, but if that is the way the world is, then the world is in bad shape. Also, if everybody is doing it, which by the way they may be, it still doesn't make it right.

Jesus gave us some keen insight into evaluating the things we hear coming out of other's mouths. He said it like this, "Out of the remembrance of the heart, the mouth speaketh." In other words, what we hear flowing out of someone's mouth is the kind of material that lives inside of them.

Now, that leads us to the real issue that we face — the corruption of the human heart.

Chicago may be working at curtailing public profanity, but they are probably making no progress against the dirty hearts that people possess. You see, cursing and vulgar language is not just a matter of pronouncing and enunciating certain sounds, but it is an expression of the heart. It

announces to all people the feelings that you have down inside and the attitudes and anger that you may otherwise keep under wraps which can become destructive. More often than not, cursing is anger and bitterness vocalized.

This brings us to a solution to the problem. The answer will not be found in just giving out fines, or in teaching people a broader vocabulary, or retraining them in a way that they can express themselves through language. No, something has to happen in the human heart. God has to renew our hearts before our language will change.

Scripture says, "If any man be in Christ, he is a new creature. Old things are passed away and behold all things become new" (2 Corinthians 5:17). This is true. Even our language can be changed when our hearts have been made new.

You may have heard about the fellow who came to know the Lord and was gloriously saved. When he came home, he didn't even know how to talk to his dog. The poor old hound had put up with his foul language for so long and now the man, made new, had to figure out how to communicate with his dog without all of that cursing.

In order to change your language it will not necessarily cost you \$300 in fines. The fine has been paid — it cost God His Son, who died in order to take away your sin and give you a whole new heart, with a whole new set of values, and a whole new vocabulary!



# BAPTIST COLLEGE & SEMINARY NEWS

**Blue Mountain College** held commencement exercises May 4. The baccalaureate service was held the Modena Lowrey Berry Auditorium with Tom Sumrall delivering the ser-

of the Blue Mountain College Board of Trustees and Swaney.

**William Carey College,** Hattiesburg, rededicated the school library with the name

Theatre Endowment Fund, and the Beverly G. Norman Scholarship.

The **William Carey College Theatre Department**

recently honored students at its 2003 Awards Dinner, Hattiesburg. Pictured (from left, front) Kristen Miller, Lauren Rasmussen, Michelle Baxter, Audrea McMillen, Kami Stansbury, Stephanie Abel, (back) Kathy Herrington, James Stewart, Clint



**Blue Mountain College Graduating Class of 2003**

mon. Billy Crews, a direct descendent of the Lowrey family, was the featured speaker. Pictured are the 2003 Graduates and the 2003 Honor Graduates.

Dumas L. Smith and I. E. Rouse Library in recent ceremonies. Lorena Roseberry Smith donated money to the library external renovation in honor of her husband, Smith. Rouse is a former WWC president. Pictured is Lorena Roseberry Smith.

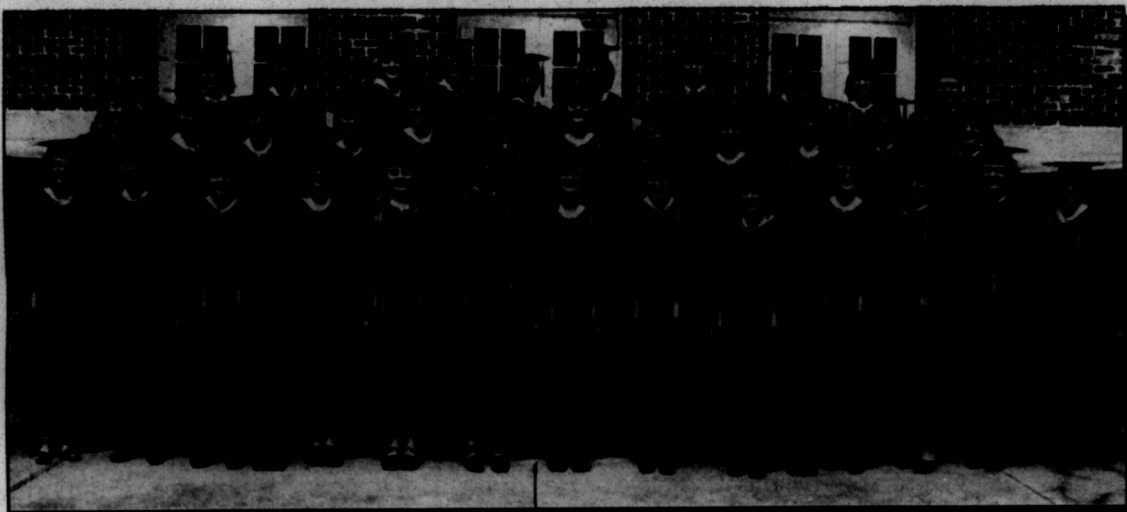
Under the direction of Miroslav Loncar, artist-in-residence and associate professor of music at William Carey College, the

James Stewart, Clint

**DUMAS L. SMITH  
I.E. ROUSE LIBRARY**



**Lorena Roseberry Smith**



**2003 Blue Mountain College Honor Graduates**

During the 130th Commencement ceremony at Blue Mountain College, John Swaney from Seneca, South Carolina, was recognized as the 500th ministerial student to graduate. A letter from Jim Futral, Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, congratulated Swaney.

Swaney has pursued a Bachelor of Science degree with a major in church related vocations with an emphasis in religious education and minors in Bible and sociology. He serves as youth minister at Camp Creek Church, Guntown. In August he will attend Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary in Lake Forest, North Carolina. Pictured is Linda Gholston, Chair

**WCC Guitar Ensemble** recently performed a concert tour. They traveled to Gulfport, Pensacola, Fla., Montgomery, Ala., and Douglasville, Ga.

Honors Day was recently held at William Carey College. Larry Kennedy, president of WCC, presented the Jenkins-Chastain Citizenship Award, the highest honor given by the college, to Andrew Clark Dale, Gulfport, and Audrea McMillen, Tupelo. Dale was also recognized as the recipient of the Henry W. Holifield Scholarship for church related vocations students and the John D. and Ollie Thomas Family Scholarship for students majoring in music. McMillen was recognized as the recipient of the Obra L. Quave Scholarship and



**Gholston and Swaney**



**William Carey College Theatre Department**



**William Carey College Guitar Recital**



**Dale and McMillen**

Thompson, Carrie Bellew, Joel King, and Abbey Lee.

Interested in learning more about the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board and the Baptist Record? For more information, visit us on the web at [www.mbc.org](http://www.mbc.org).



## JUST FOR THE RECORD



**GAs of Bunker Hill Church, Columbia**

A revival recently took place at **Williamsville Church, Kosciusko**, on April 13-16. Fred Wolfe was the guest speaker. Pictured (from left) are Wolfe and Jerry East, pastor.

**Steele Church, Forest**, presented *Something To Die For*, a drama on the life on Christ, on April 18. Pictured are the performers who were church members.

**Clarke-Venable Church, Decatur**, held a ground-breaking on May 4 for a new addition to church facilities. Pictured (from left) are Alex Craft, Kim Weems, Eddie Smith, Mickey Vance, Chris Harris, Bud Smith, and Stan Buckley, pastor.



**Wolfe and East**

**Parkway Church, Houston**, recently received the Eagle Award from Lifeway Christian resources and the Sunday School Department of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board. The Eagle Award is presented to only a few churches each year for phenomenal growth in Sunday School. John Clendinning, MBCB, made the presentation on April 6. Gregg Thomas is pastor.

The **GAs of Bunker Hill Church, Columbia**, helped the church collect 30 pounds of candy and supplies sent to the Middle East. Pictured are the GAs praying for our soldiers.

**Holly Springs Church, Foxworth**, will hold a Vacation Bible School Round-Up on May 31 from 10 a.m.-noon. VBS will be June 2-6, from 6:30-9 p.m. An ice cream social for the closing of VBS will be held on June 8. For more info call (601) 736-5795.

**Hebron Church, Benton**, will hold Vacation Bible School May 29-31 from 6:30 p.m.-8:30 p.m. The commencement service will be held June 1 at 6 p.m. For more information, call (662) 755-8698 or (662) 755-2191.

**Rocky Point, Carthage**, will hold Vacation Bible School June 2-6 from 9 a.m.-noon. Betty Jenkins is the VBS director and Lita Moore is in charge of music. Marshall Lum is pastor.



**Clark-Venable Ground Breaking, Decatur**



**Steele Church, Forest**



**Clendinning, Ferguson, and Thomas**

Life Action Singer will present *Bring Back the Glory* on June 19 at 7 p.m. at **Agricola Church, Lucedale**. For more information, call (800) 955-9673 or (601) 947-2460.



**YOU CAN RESPOND RIGHT NOW!**

*Simply share the following prayer with God in your own words:*

1. Lord, I admit that I need you. *(I have sinned.)*
2. I want forgiveness for my sins and freedom from eternal death. *(I repent.)*
3. I believe Jesus died and rose from the grave to forgive my sins and to restore my relationship with you. *(I believe in Jesus.)*
4. By faith, I invite Jesus Christ into my life. From this time on, I want to live in a loving relationship with him. *(I receive Christ as my Savior and Lord.)*

*But as many as received him, to them he gave the right to become children of God, even to those who believe in his name (John 1:12).*

If you make a decision for Jesus Christ today, contact a local Baptist church for spiritual guidance.

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**LEESVILLE - FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH.** Full-time youth and recreation minister. Send resumes with photo to: Youth Pastor Search Committee, First Baptist Church of Leesville, P.O. Box 1568, 1400 Nolan Trace, Leesville, LA 71446 or email fbcl Leesville@wnonline.net.

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## HOMECOMING & REVIVAL DATES

**Antioch, Monticello:** May 25; Sunday School, 10 a.m.; worship, 11 a.m.; dinner on the grounds, noon; afternoon singing will follow; Jackie Cooke, former pastor, preaching; The Living Water, Puckett, music; Tim Roberts, pastor; for more information call (601) 823-1915.

**Fellowship, State Line:** June 1-6; Mon.-Fri., 7 p.m.; Mark Vincent, First, Charleston, preaching; Tony Williams, pastor.

**Concord, Meadville:** May 25; worship, 11 a.m.; dinner on the grounds; afternoon worship, 1:15 p.m.; John MacLarian, speaking.

**Calvary, Duck Hill:** May 25; 125th anniversary; worship, 10:30 a.m.-noon; dinner on the grounds; afternoon singing and speaking; Bernard Nail, W. M. Hull, and Billy Little, speaking; Lavon Hatten, pastor; for more information call (662) 237-4145.

**Woodland Hills, Jackson:** May 25; Harvest Day; Bible Study, 9:30 a.m.; worship, following; lunch, noon; prayer and worship, 1 p.m.; outreach, 2 p.m. and 2:45 p.m.; Randall Creel, evangelist.

**Calvary, Pricedale:** June 1; fellowship, 9:30 a.m.; worship, 10:30 a.m.; lunch in the fellowship hall; afternoon music; Dennis, Darlene, and Traci Dunn, Bayou Sara, Saraland, Ala., speaking and music; Harold Gartman, pastor.

**Salem, Toomsaba:** May 25; Thomas Jewell Wood, pastor.

**Black Hawk, Coila:** May 25; worship, 11 a.m.; a covered dish lunch will follow; concert, 1:30 p.m.; Riley Ainsworth, pastor, speaking; Promised, music.

**Black Hawk, Coila:** May 26-30; Mon.-Fri., 7:30 p.m.; James Garner, Main Street, Goodman, speaking; J.B. and Glendora Sherman, music.

**Smyrna, Hazlehurst:** June 8; worship, 11 a.m.; dinner on the grounds; Dexter Ware, preaching.

**Roundaway, Doddsville:** May 25; worship, 10:45 a.m.; covered dish lunch; afternoon service, 1:30 p.m.; Eugene Kirk, speaking; Linda Madden, music.

**Sebastopol, Sebastopol:** May 25-28; Sunday, 11 a.m. and 6:30 p.m.; Danny Lanier, evangelist; Maria McLeod, music; David Bankson, pastor.

**Poplar Springs, Newton:** June 1-4; Sunday, 11 a.m., lunch will be served, and 7 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., 7 p.m.; Jim Futral, evangelist; Marion Felton, music; Charles Bonner, pastor.

**Friendship, Brookhaven:** May 25; Sunday School, 10 a.m.; worship, 11 a.m.; lunch at noon; an afternoon service will follow; Talmadge Smith, speaking.

**Liberty, Carrollton:** June 1; worship, 10:45 a.m.; covered dish lunch at noon; Riley Ainsworth, former pastor, speaking.

**Bethel, Oxberry:** May 25; worship, 11 a.m.; lunch at noon; McGregor's, afternoon music; William McDaniel, pastor.

**Arlington, Bogue Chitto:** May 25; Sunday School, 10 a.m.; worship, 11 a.m.; Cletus Moak, Parkview, Tallulia, La., preaching; Doug Moak, Gum Grove, Brookhaven, music; lunch will be served; afternoon service, 1:30 p.m.

**Victory, Mathiston:** June 1-4; Sunday, 6 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., 7 p.m.; Andy Parrish, Springhill,

Millport, Ala., evangelist; Steve and Becky Carver, music; Don Parish, pastor.

**Center Hill, Hamilton:** June 1; Sunday School, 9:45 a.m.; memorial/worship, 11 a.m.; covered dish meal at noon; afternoon singing, 1:15 p.m.; The Messengers, music; Terry J. Edwards, pastor.

**Corinth, Purvis:** May 25; Sunday School, 9:30 a.m.; worship, 10:20 a.m.; New Life Quartet, 11:30 a.m.; covered dish lunch, 12:15 p.m.; David Strebeck, pastor.

**County Line, Dossville:** June 1-4; worship, 11 a.m.; lunch will follow the service; Sunday-Wed., 7 p.m.; Thomas Wicker, evangelist; Larry Burchfield, music; James Burrell, pastor.

## STATE CHANGES



Selman

Clarke Venable Church, Decatur, called Shawn Selman of First Church, Petal, as Minister of Youth and Education in

October. Selman is a graduate of William Carey College.

First Church, Nettleton, recently called Brad Geno as Youth Minister.

[www.mbc.org](http://www.mbc.org)



MISSISSIPPI  
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## The Legacy of Preaching

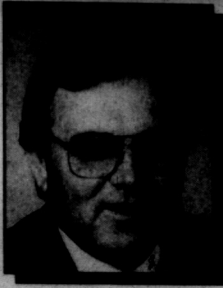
BEESON PASTORS SCHOOL JULY 21-25, 2003





## NAMES IN THE NEWS

**James Rutledge** has resigned as pastor of Antioch Church, Golden, effective May 25. Rutledge has pastored churches in Pontotoc, Monroe, Union, Winston, and Itawamba Counties. For supply and interim, call (662) 256-9780.



Rutledge

**Marcus Boyles** as deacons on April 13. Mark Byrd is pastor. Pictured (from left) are Sanderson, Lewis, and Boyles.

**Tylertown Church, Tylertown**, exceeded their Annie Armstrong Easter Offering goal of \$8,400 before the end of April. The total amount given was \$8,626.25.

**Clear Branch Church, Florence**, will hold a special recognition service Recognizing Those Who Protect Us and Our Freedoms on May 25 at 11 a.m. Hamburgs and hotdogs will follow. For more information, call (601) 845-6688 or (601) 845-0387.

Students and leaders from the **Blue Mountain College BSU** participated in a week-long spring break mission trip in New Orleans, La. The team worked with Allen and Martha Bolland, who minister at Lake Forest Church. They held a Spring Bible Blast and also led the church in worship through testimonies, songs, interpretive

movements, and drama. Team members served in the Brantley Baptist Center, the Carver Center, the Baptist Friendship House, and a church member's home.

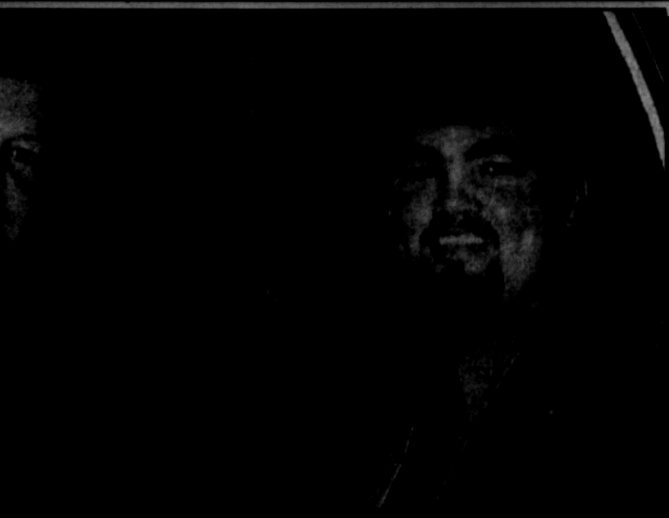
**Clarke Venable Church, Decatur**, licensed **Nathan Stamper** to the ministry on February 16. Stamper serves as the youth minister at Sebastopol Church, Sebastopol. Pictured (from left) are Stan Buckley, pastor, and Stamper.

**Main Street Church, Goodman**, ordained **Al Different** to the ministry on April 27. Different has been called as pastor of Mount Vernon Church, West. Pictured (from left) are Different and James Garner, pastor.

**Calvary Church, Waynesboro**, ordained **Lonnie Sanderson, Mark Lewis, and**



Sanderson, Lewis, and Boyles



Buckley and Stamper



Different and Garner

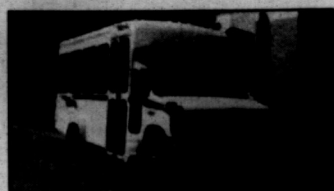
**New Choctaw Baptist Association** will hold a Reservation Wide Crusade May 26-30 at 6:30 p.m. at Pearl River Community Church, Philadelphia. George Dixon is the evangelist.



Blue Mountain College Baptist Student Union

### 15 - Passenger Van Safety is Big News from Bays

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### MS POSITIONS AVAILABLE

**FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF** Columbus, Miss., is currently accepting resumes for the position of Interim Director of preschool and children's ministries. Please mail resumes to P.O. Box 829, Columbus, MS 39703, attn: Robyn Gaydon.

**SLAYDEN BAPTIST CHURCH, SLAYDEN, Miss.**, (Marshall Association) is seeking an interim music/worship leader. Please contact the church office at (662) 252-4559.

**POSITION AVAILABLE FOR A FULL-TIME** Kindergarten-Day Care Director. Call (601) 372-8651.

**UNION BAPTIST CHURCH, Tylertown, Miss.**, is seeking a bi-vocational music director position. We have a house for weekend stay, if you

must drive a distance. God is working in our church and we need you if you are God's man for us. Please call Rev. Millard Moak at (601) 876-3567 or mail resume: 32 Union Church Road, Tylertown, MS 39667.

**PINE GROVE BAPTIST CHURCH IN** Neshoba Association is seeking a part-time music director to direct graded choirs and congregation. Send resume to PGBC, 13281 Hwy 492 E, Union, MS 39365-9541 or you may fax your resume to (601) 389-6188.

**EPHESUS BAPTIST CHURCH OF** Forest is seeking a youth and children's minister. Send resume to 3535 Ephesus Road, Forest, MS 39074 or call (601) 469-1731. The job requires 15 hours a week during the school year and full-

time during the summer.

**UNION WEST BAPTIST CHURCH IN** Oxford, Miss., is currently searching for a part-time minister of music. Please send resume to 794 CR 313, Oxford, MS 38655, attention: music minister search committee, or email Cliff Vines at crvines@hotmail.com.

**ERIC PERKINS, MINISTER TO** students, at Harrisburg Baptist Church in Tupelo, Miss., has been accepted by the International Mission Board to serve as a Church Planter in Uruguay. The church is receiving recommendations for the position of Minister to students. Send recommendations to: Harrisburg Baptist Church, attn: Dr. Forrest Sheffield, 4675 Cliff Gookin Blvd., Tupelo, MS 38801.

## Committee criticizes Saudi Arabia

WASHINGTON (BP) — The United States needs to make religious liberty a significant part of its relationship with Saudi Arabia, the U.S. Commission on International Religious Freedom (USCIRF) said on May 13, the day after suicide bombers killed Americans and other foreigners in the Middle East country.

The commission's annual report followed the attacks on a compound for Westerners that resulted in more than 30 deaths. The radical Islamic terrorist group Al Qaeda has been credited with planning the bombings.

In its report, the commission once again called for the State Department to name Saudi Arabia as a severe violator of religious freedom. Though the department has acknowledged religious liberty does not exist in Saudi Arabia, it has refused to add the Islamic state to its list of "countries of particular concern."

The commission recommended that the United States:

- investigate the Saudi Arabian government's funding of the international promotion of a radical form of Islam that advances hate and sometimes violence.

- push the Saudi government to improve its religious freedom status by, among other acts, eliminating the mutawaa (the religious police) and permitting places of worship not identified with Wahhabi, a narrow interpretation of Islam.

- investigate reports that religious discrimination and restrictions against U.S. military members, diplomats and workers in Saudi Arabia are taking place.

In issuing its fourth yearly report since a 1998 law established it, the commission also released new reports on Saudi Arabia and five other countries: Afghanistan, Vietnam, Russia, Laos, and Belarus.

Richard Land, president of the Southern Baptist Ethics and Religious Liberty Commission in Nashville, is a member of the committee. The USCIRF's 2003 report, as well as new individual country reports, may be accessed online at [www.uscifr.gov](http://www.uscifr.gov).



## NAMB's youth mag recognized

ATLANTA (BP) — A Southern Baptist youth periodical — Go! — received an Award of Excellence during the Evangelical Press Association's recent annual meeting in Atlanta. The Awards of Excellence contest looks at the entire publication and is broken down by category with awards offered in each category. This competition does not have a category for online publications.

Go!, published by the North American Mission Board (NAMB), emerged atop the Youth category that included Award of Merit honors for Breakaway, published by Focus on the Family, and Campus Life, published by Christianity Today.

Go! is edited by Janna Jones. Aaron Cessna is the magazine's art director.

# MissionsBLITZ coming to Perry County

By Tony Martin  
Associate Editor

Perry Association in Richton and the Mississippi woman's Missionary Union (WMU) are hosting a June 22-28 MissionsBLITZ — a focused missions effort to identify and meet the needs of the residents of Perry County.

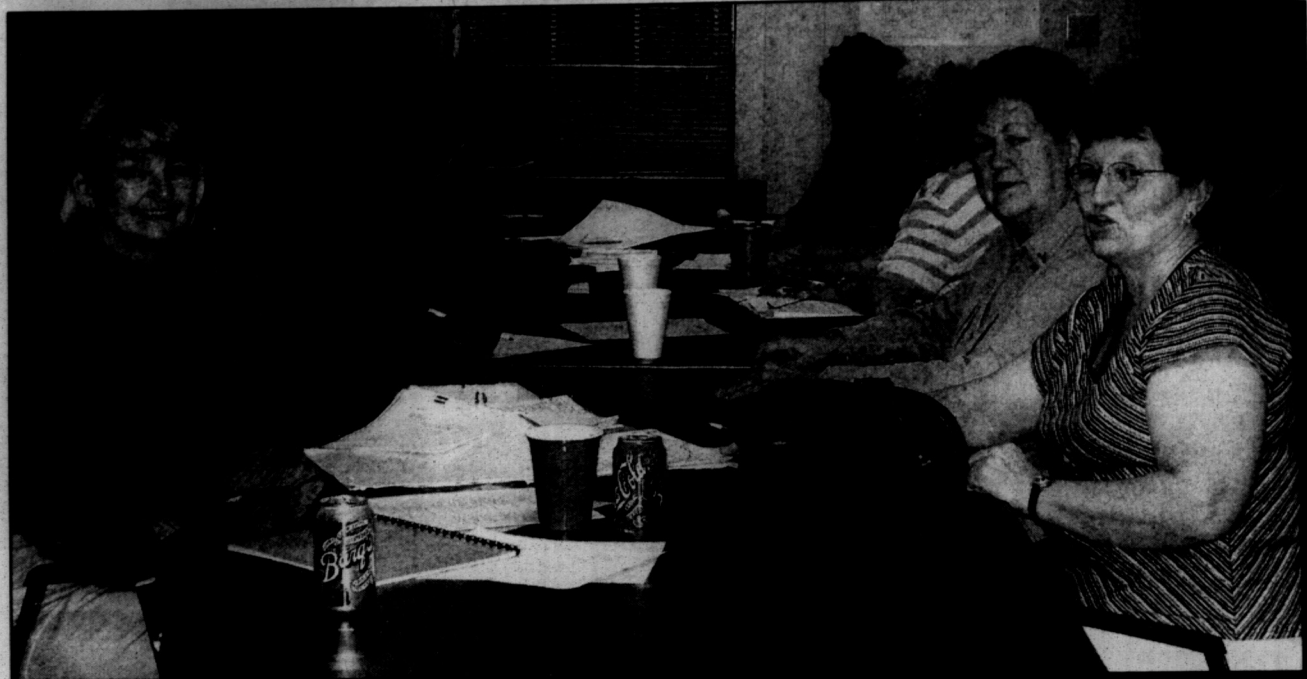
A variety of projects will be offered, including Acts of Kindness (cleaning apartments, oil changes, etc.), Prayerwalking, Vacation Bible School (VBS), Backyard Bible Club (BYBC), construction, block parties, and more. Cost for participating in the project is \$25 per person, with a maximum of \$50 per family. Goals for the event include:

- providing a VBS or BYBC for every child in Perry County.
- identifying and praying for needs in the county.
- showing the love of God through Acts of Kindness ministries.

• bringing church leaders within the county together to more effectively network and strengthen their churches.

The event will take place all over the county. Volunteers, adults through children, are needed. "Everyone will have something to do," said Tammy Anderson, consultant with the Mississippi WMU. "Church teams or family teams — we need them all."

According to Buddy Keyes, pastor of First Church, Richton, and chairman for the event, "A



PLANNING THE BLITZ — The steering committee for the Perry County MissionsBLITZ is hard at work planning the area wide missions endeavor. Members of the committee include (from left) Carolyn Pipkins, Back Yard Bible Club coordinator; John Garner, light construction coordinator; Buddy Keyes, pastor of First Church, Richton, chairman; Teresa Herring, housing coordinator; Frances Mathis, Vacation Bible School (VBS) coordinator; Sandra Breland, publicity coordinator; Liz Wilson, associational WMU director. (BR photo by Tammy Anderson)

church member and myself were on a mission trip last summer, and we began talking about how Perry County might be reached for Christ.

"I remembered a missions blitz in Pascagoula several years ago and just suggested, 'Why don't we have something like that here?' We just sought God and He laid it on our hearts."

Keyes contacted Anderson, who helped work out the partnership with WMU.

"There are some areas of the county we aren't touching at all," said Keyes. "For instance, we have some churches that have 25 or less in Sunday School, and they aren't able to have VBS. There are some other areas we need to reach; we want to offer Backyard Bible Clubs, help weatherize houses, things like that."

"Perry County hasn't been touched for Christ in a long time," Keyes continued. "We want to show people that Jesus

loves them and that we love them."

For more information on the Perry County MissionsBLITZ, contact Anderson at MBCB, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. Telephone: (601) 292-3319 or toll-free outside Jackson (800) 748-1651. E-mail: [tanderson@mbcb.org](mailto:tanderson@mbcb.org).

Programs of the Mississippi WMU are supported by gifts to the Mississippi Cooperative Program and the Margaret Lackey State Missions Offering.

## Church invests heavily in unique youth outreach

FORT WORTH, Texas (BP) — He doesn't look like the average, clean-cut youth minister because he isn't. His church's youth facility is anything but average as well.

John Mark Seelig, "skate pastor" for Lakepointe Church in Rockwall, Texas, oversees the church's Pier 419 youth center, a radically different design and atmosphere from the traditional confines of church gyms and softball fields.

Pier 419 is all about evangelism, all about finding a way to reach an often-overlooked segment of society — young people on the fringe of the urban, middle class.

The idea for Pier 419 began with the account in Matthew 4:19 in which Jesus told some of the disciples He would make them "fishers of men." Eight million dollars and 48,000 square feet later, the Pier 419 youth center emerged.

The building has been modeled after a beach house in keeping with its theme verse, and is complete with a boardwalk-like deck, sand volleyball court and its hottest attraction — a skate park.

"If you build it they will come," for at least a week or two," Seelig said. That just may be all the time he needs to reel them in.

Seelig, a 26-year-old master of divinity student at Southwestern Seminary in Fort Worth, became involved with Lakepointe Church's youth ministry when he was searching for "some possible alternative church opportunities."

His experience as a skater, as well as his willingness to think outside the box, made Seelig a perfect candidate for what Lakepointe's leadership had in mind.

"I came late in the game. They kind of knew their direction, what they were going with. They knew a skate park was something that could really reach a bunch of kids, but they didn't really know how that would happen or really what that would look like at all," Seelig said.

He provided the link to the skater culture the church was looking for, as well as the knowledge to provide partners and sponsors in making Pier 419's skater outreach program a reality.

During the skate church's April 29 grand opening, many of the nearly 1,000 youth in attendance skated for free in 15-minute slots. They also were treated to a demonstration by two professional skaters from the King of Kings skate ministry. The professional skaters challenged the youth not only to try new tricks on the park's quarter pipes and rails, but also with their testimony for Christ.

"With skaters, it's definitely a different marketing mentality. It's all about the image. Everything is image, and so we knew that we had to build an image to reach the kids,"

Seelig said. "Everything in the skating world is about impressing the other skater, showing off what you can do."

That image is certainly present in Pier 419's multiple basketball courts, expansive game room with over a dozen game systems, 850-seat auditorium, and punk music blaring from its impressive sound system. Seelig bolstered the image of this cutting-edge youth center and "built a buzz" for Pier 419 before its unveiling by producing T-shirts and stickers bearing the 419 logo.

As impressive as the facility is, Seelig understands that it alone will not keep young people coming. Rather, it will be the relationships that are available through the transforming love of Christ.

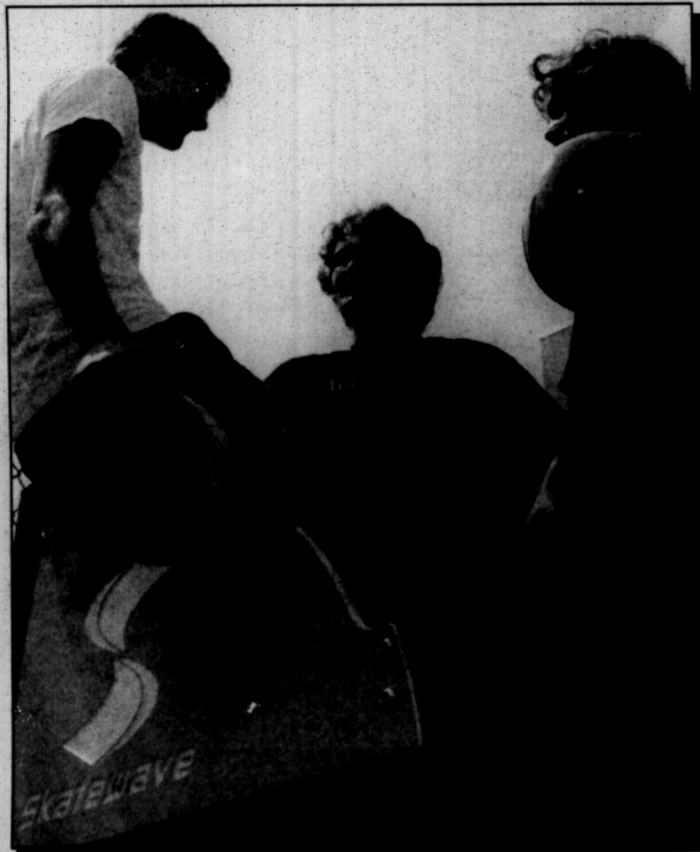
"Building a building and having over 1,000 kids, that won't last if they don't get something. They're just such a culture that they get bored. They have everything. They could get this anywhere," Seelig said.

For this reason, his ministry has placed a premium on relationship building and solid biblical teaching.

Of the youth nearly 1,000 who attended the opening of the facility, 150 sought out further information about Christianity following a time of invitation. Seelig said 50 made professions of faith. "It's a perfect testimony that we're reaching kids and that's just huge right now. Kids are just all over it," Seelig said.

Pier 419's skate church is held each Tuesday at 5:30 and 6 p.m. Junior high and high school students attend a seeker-friendly Bible study and then can skate for free if they have a sticker on their board, available only by attending the study.

SKATE MINISTRY — John Mark Seelig (center), "skate pastor" at Lakepointe Church in Rockwall, Texas, talks with two young people at the church's Pier 419 skate park. (BP photo by Matthew Miller)





## FAMILY BIBLE STUDY

### Serving God Together as a Family

Acts 18:1-4, 24-28, Romans 16:3-5a

By Lori Clendinning

I am constantly amazed at God's sovereignty. Every day He sends us reminders that He is in control and that nothing happens without His knowledge and care. Upon my unexpected trip to southern Ohio last week to help my mother cope with my grandmother's failing health, my dear husband John was left to deal with many of the details that I had to hurriedly leave behind. One of these was meeting the writing deadline of the Baptist Record Sunday School lesson.

As John graciously and effectively wrote the article in my absence, I can't help but be amused that last week's lesson was titled "Giving Unselfishly to God's Work." John certainly embodied that principle, putting his love for me into action and service for God. Nor, in light of John's efforts on my behalf last week, am I surprised to find that

this week's lesson speaks volumes to me: "Serving God Together as a Family." As always, God's timing is perfect. Only God assimilates details, such as the title of a Sunday School lesson chosen months before, in order to remind us that He loves us and is pleased when we demonstrate our love for Him by serving others. God wants Christian families to serve Him faithfully and unselfishly.

This week's lesson focuses on four aspects exemplified in the lives of an extraordinary first century Christian couple who dedicated themselves to serving God together as a family. By their example we learn that Christian families should: 1) Labor with God's people, 2) Mentor other believers, 3) Demonstrate self-sacrifice, and 4) Open our homes for Christian fellowship.

Paul's second missionary



Clendinning

journey began when he left Athens and traveled to Corinth. It was there that Paul met Priscilla and Aquila, a Jewish couple who, by all indications, had probably become Christians before they met Paul.

Priscilla and Aquila were tentmakers by trade and it was with them that Paul stayed while waiting in Corinth for Silas and Timothy to join him from Macedonia. Their fellowship was a source of encouragement to Paul as he witnessed to both Jews and Greeks there.

It's also interesting to note that both Paul and Luke always mention Priscilla and Aquila together, never separately. They were committed to serving the Lord together and demonstrated that service in their dedication to meeting Paul's physical needs for food and shelter as well as his emotional needs for Christian companionship and encouragement.

After traveling with Paul to Ephesus, the couple extended their service and support to

other believers during their stay there. Although Paul went on, Priscilla and Aquila were able to provide spiritual mentoring to a new named Apollos who traveled to Ephesus. They were able to offer the zealous new believer mature, spiritual guidance and the effectiveness of their ministry to him was later evidenced by the fact that the Ephesian believers were delighted to write a letter of recommendation for Apollos as he left for Achaia. The self-sacrifice that Priscilla and Aquila demonstrated became clear in Romans 16:3, 4 when Paul referred to their risking their own necks in order to save his life. One occasion on which this might have happened may have been during the riot in Ephesus, reported in Acts 19:23-41.

Paul's regard for the Christian couple was great, not only for the personal sacrifices they had made for him, but also for the widespread impact of this family's Christian testimony.

Priscilla and Aquila traveled extensively as they served God. They first met Paul in Corinth, having arrived there when the emperor Claudius ordered all

Jews to leave Rome. After meeting Paul, they accompanied him to Ephesus where they mentored Apollos and where they had a church meeting in their home when Paul wrote I Corinthians. Later they apparently returned to Rome where they had another church meeting in their home. Regardless of their address, Priscilla and Aquila were dedicated to serving God and demonstrated their commitment to Him by opening up their homes for Christian fellowship and discipleship. Despite personal threat and risk, they served God and His people by providing shelter, nourishment, and encouragement. By serving God together, Priscilla and Aquila experienced unity and fulfillment, and are rewarded with the unique distinction of always being remembered for their commitment to God, His church, and each other.

May we, as we seek ways to hold our Christian families together, experience the same kind of unity and fulfillment by dedicating ourselves to serving God.

Clendinning is member of First Church, Brandon.

## EXPLORE THE BIBLE

### Trust God in Times of Pressure

I Kings 22:13-17, 19-23, 28

By Harold Simmons

**Introduction:** While serving in the Air Force as a Chaplain, I heard all sorts of definitions for common words. For the word "expert" I heard the definition as someone with a briefcase who was more than 50 miles from home. Another divided the word to give definition: "ex"- a has been. "spurt"- a drip under pressure. Who has not been under pressure? Micaiah was certainly under pressure. Even though under pressure, he acknowledged it and resisted it by standing on God's word.

**Experiencing Pressure (I Kings 22: 13-14).** The first 12 verses of this chapter give the setting for what is about to take place. The two kings are about to attack Ramoth Gilead to reclaim the city for Israel.

Jehoshaphat, king of Judah is not sure of the "prophets" message and asks for a prophet of the Lord to determine what the Lord has to say about the attack. This request showed that Jehoshaphat wanted to "do what was right in the eyes of the Lord." (I Kings 22:41-50) Ahab's use of the "prophets" (we are not told who they represented), indicates he did not care one way or the other just as long as he got the answer he wanted.

When a messenger went to the Lord's prophet, Micaiah, he put the pressure on him to repeat the prophecy of the "prophets" and to speak favorably for the attack. Micaiah would have no trouble remembering what Ahab had done to anyone who got in his way. He



Simmons

also could rely on Jezebel to try and take his life to continue her efforts to make Baalism the state religion. The Lord's man was in a tight place and that not of his choosing.

Micaiah's answer to the messenger was great. He replied that he could only speak what the Lord told him regardless of who it pleased or didn't please. We are all under pressure to compromise what the Lord wants of us in our world today. Only by standing with the Lord are we safe in any situation.

**Acknowledging Pressure (I Kings 22: 15-16).** When Micaiah was brought before the kings, one ask him the question of the day "shall we go to war?" Notice the question is phrased at first as inclusive of king Jehoshaphat — shall we go to war. Then the second part of the question is "or shall I refrain?" That sounds like the decision belongs to Ahab in refraining from war with

Ramoth Gilead. Jehoshaphat has agreed to help Ahab in the war, but Ahab is the leader.

Micaiah's answer was just exactly what he had been instructed to say. However, the way he said it must have been very sarcastic, or at least enough for the king to catch the sarcasm. Because his next statement indicates that he knew that Micaiah had given an answer that was not in keeping with what the Lord wanted. Ahab then gave Micaiah the opportunity to freely speak the truth of God. The truth was that if Ahab did what he wanted to do and attack, God would not be with him and he would fail.

**Resisting Pressure (I Kings 22: 17, 19-23).** Micaiah let Ahab know that the Lord intended to take his life in the battle if he persisted with his plan to attack. God is always merciful in letting us know in advance, that if we continue to press for our way when He has told us that our way is in direct opposition to His will, there will be consequences.

Micaiah continued by telling of a vision the Lord had given him of how he would carry out his plan by putting the prophets in the frame of mind to tell Ahab what he wanted to hear. The way is clear for Ahab to choose the Lord's way if he wanted. The choice is also ours and we can avoid hard consequences. God has made a way of deliverance.

**Standing on God's Word (I Kings 22: 28).** Micaiah staked his claim that he had spoken the truth from God by this statement. The true prophet of God can stand on His word. There is an implied trust here.

Martin Luther trusted in the Lord's Word when he finished the defense of his position before the leaders of the Catholic Church as he said, "God help me — I can do no other." May we stand on the Lord's Word when pressures come to compromise with the world!

Simmons is the pastor of Hebron Church, Grenada.

## Guidelines for submitting news and photographs

The Baptist Record is pleased to publish news and photographs of special events that take place in participating churches of the Mississippi Baptist Convention.

News submitted for publication in The Baptist Record must be either (a) typewritten, or (b) handwritten on 8 1/2 by 11-inch paper, and must be typed on standard format, similar to a newspaper. All articles must be double-spaced, with no article will be accepted without the telephone.

News items submitted electronically must be in Microsoft Word or Rich Text Format, and must be saved as a .doc or .rtf file. News items should be submitted through the website.



No text attachments will be accepted. Photographs and other attachments are permissible.

Photographs may be color or black and white. Submit photos and other attachments in electronic format. News items may be submitted via email to: news@baptistrecord.com or by mail to: Baptist Record, P.O. Box 100, Grenada, MS 39055. FAX: 662-536-1111. E-mail: news@baptistrecord.com

All news items are subject to editing, and all photographs are subject to cropping. News items and/or photographs can be published one time only. Deadline for submitting news is one week prior to requested publication date.

Articles that are not date-sensitive will be published on a space-available basis. Requests to return photographs must be accompanied by a self-addressed, stamped envelope.

Submit news and photographs to The Baptist Record, P.O. Box 100, Grenada, MS 39055. FAX: 662-536-1111. E-mail: news@baptistrecord.com



# Reaching Out event canvasses community

LOUISVILLE, Ky. (BP) — From servant evangelism to inner-city outreach, 100 seminarians and several faculty and staff members at Southern Seminary took the message of

true," said Chuck Lawless, associate professor of evangelism and church growth and a participant in Reaching Out 2003. "It's evidence that evangelism is catching fire on this campus."

their father had been a Baptist pastor. Neither woman professed faith in Christ, but one of them still had a tract their father had given her in 1944.

"So I was able to read through the tract out loud, from 1944, and it was really cool. It had verses on how to be saved, and it was a real blessing to talk to them," Fowler said.

Through encounters like Fowler's, Reaching Out 2003 participants distributed more than 1,000 tracts, New Testaments and copies of the "Jesus" film, said Twyla Fagan, director of Great Commission ministries and coordinator of Reaching Out 2003.

Lynn Robinson, whose husband is an M.Div. student, discovered that in some cases the tracts had an immediate impact.

When one conversation did not present Robinson with an opportunity to share the Gospel, she left a tract and a Bible with the man to whom she was talking. Walking by the man's house several minutes later, she found him intently studying the tract.

"We went on our way, and a little while later we come back, and he was sitting on the front porch of his apartment reading the tract and the Bible. We asked him how it was going, and he said it was 'good,'" Robinson said.

Matthew Spradlin, an M.Div. student from

Bakersfield, Calif., had the opportunity to lead two people to Christ while doing door-to-door visitation. At one house, Spradlin discovered a couple eager to hear the Gospel.

"They were a family that had been to church," he said. "They just didn't know the Gospel or how to be saved and have a relationship with Christ. So we shared with them, and at the end they said they would like to pray with us to accept Christ. So we got to listen to them ask Christ to come into their lives."

For Larry Purcell, associate professor of leadership and church ministry, one of several faculty participants, the event underscores that the aim of seminary teaching is ultimately to make disciples of Jesus Christ.

"One of the things that drives me at times is that as much as we teach in the white ivory towers of education and academia, so often we have to get out where people are in the Kingdom and to find out what it's like in the marketplace because that impacts the way I deal with people here and the way I teach as well," Purcell said.

Fagan described Reaching Out 2003 — "for a first-time event" — as very successful, she said. "We had over 100 people participating, and many lives were touched. I just couldn't be more pleased."



**GETTING READY** — Twyla Fagan, Southern Seminary's director of Great Commission ministries and coordinator, gives instructions April 26 to students and several faculty and staff members who are preparing to participate in the Reaching Out 2003 witnessing effort in seminary's home community of Louisville, Ky. (BP photo)

Jesus Christ to the city of Louisville in late April. The seminary's first annual Reaching Out project was part of Great Commission Week.

"To see over a hundred students and faculty come out just to go out and share the Gospel is in some ways a dream come

For Calvin Fowler, an M.Div. student from Chattanooga, Reaching Out 2003 provided a unique opportunity to water a Gospel seed planted by a Baptist pastor nearly 60 years ago.

While doing inner-city evangelism, Fowler encountered two sisters and learned that

## Seminary removes Texas paper, files grievance

FORT WORTH, Texas (BP) — Southwestern Seminary in Ft. Worth has removed a Texas Baptist newspaper from its campus and filed a formal grievance against the paper and its managing editor.

The seminary took the actions in response to controversial coverage by the Baptist Standard over the recent retirement announcement of Southwestern President Ken Hemphill. In the Standard's April 21 edition, managing editor Mark Wingfield reported that Southern Baptist Convention officials and seminary trustees had called Hemphill to meetings in recent years and demanded that he resign or be fired.

Hemphill, in a letter to the editor in the Standard's April 28 edition, stated that the reports were incorrect and that he had never been contacted to verify the truth of the allegations. The Standard, in an editor's note at the end of Hemphill's statements, said it stands by its story.

For years, the seminary placed stacks of the Standard, which is owned by the Baptist General Convention of Texas, on its campus. Southwestern's director of public relations, David Porter, had the stacks removed May 1 after the editorial rebuttal, "which implicitly called Hemphill a liar," Porter said.

He said he made the difficult decision to remove the paper on his own, not at Hemphill's direction.

"For years, the Baptist Standard has reduced its positive coverage of Southwestern Seminary and increasingly pushed its anti-Southwestern Seminary, anti-SBC agenda, but in the spirit of cooperation, we continued to make the newspaper available because of the historic connection between Southwestern and the Standard," Porter said. "However, the

Standard's recent coverage of Southwestern is injurious to the seminary community and cannot be accommodated. Further, such coverage will no longer be promoted by making the newspaper available to the seminary community."

In a letter dated May 8, Porter and Craig Blaising, Southwestern's executive vice president, provost, and dean of the school of theology, filed a grievance with Lonnie Wilkey, president of the Association of State Baptist Papers (ASBP) and editor of the Tennessee Baptist and Reflector in Nashville and president of the Association of State Baptist Papers. ASBP membership is made up of the editors of the state Baptist newspapers.

The letter from Southwestern officials asked the organization to investigate the Standard's coverage in light of the ASBP's Statement of Principles and to censure Wingfield and the Standard.

The letter states, "We are writing to formally protest inaccuracies and misrepresentations recently published in the Baptist Standard. Managing editor Mark Wingfield's unethical news story on supposed reasons behind Ken Hemphill's retirement, as well as editorial comments placed at the end of Dr. Hemphill's letter to the editor, are clear examples of irresponsible journalism. The Standard's coverage on this matter did not meet the high standards and guiding principles which the ASBP has set for its members to follow and the Standard has accepted as a member of the ASBP."

"The complete reliance on unnamed sources and the fact that Dr. Hemphill was not given an opportunity to challenge their allegations are breaches of journalistic integrity, something we deserve in Baptist

life. Wingfield's decision to present conjecture and speculation as confirmed fact — again without even calling Dr. Hemphill to validate the accuracy of these claims — should not be countenanced in Baptist life, especially among the ministry of our state Baptist papers.

"Dr. Hemphill's letter to the editor was published as an opinion piece and then was followed by an editor's response which implicitly called Dr. Hemphill a liar. We believe the charges and the editorial response border on libel."

When Hemphill went to Southwestern in 1994, the Standard had been removed from campus. Hemphill reversed that decision when he arrived because, he said, he didn't want to add to its credibility by making it appear that the seminary was censoring negative coverage.

Porter said that should not be the case this time. "I think we have made every effort to be at peace with all men, as Paul said in Romans 12:18. And I know you aren't supposed to pick a fight with the man who buys printer's ink by the barrel, but enough is enough," Porter said. "It's a free country. If students and others related to the seminary want the Standard, they can go online or they can subscribe. The seminary, however, will no longer be party to the distribution of faulty, biased information about the seminary and the denomination. The seminary has decided, instead, to make the Southern Baptist Texan available."

The Texan is the newsjournal of the new Southern Baptists of Texas Convention, which is a rival organization that claims to be more aligned with the Southern Baptist Convention than is the Baptist General Convention of Texas.

### Bibliocipher

By Charles Marx  
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RE LF EOKERKK YVF  
SBLWK KWD WAABSIRXU  
YB YVF HASRTYOSF,  
YVBH HVWKY KBZF YVL  
XFRUVPBOS WH  
YVLHFKE, LF IB DFKK.  
QWGFH YDB: FRUVY

Clue: L = Y

Have fun with cryptography and exercise your Bible knowledge. A King James Version Bible verse has been encoded by letter substitution. The same letter is substituted throughout the puzzle. Solve by trial and error. Answer to last week's puzzle: Romans 3:22